



ASSEMBLYMEMBER NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

April 21, 2006

Hello Friends:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

Well, this week was a hectic one, as I presented a number of my bills in their respective committee hearings. Here is the report of the week's legislative happenings:

AB 2711 (passed; Assembly Banking and Finance Committee): This bill removes a Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) requirement to approve payment instruments, such as money orders, before they can be used by a business.

AB 2300 (presented, vote next week; Assembly Public Safety Committee): This bill gives County Boards of Supervisors the ability to assess an additional court penalty of \$3 to support local Crime Stoppers Programs. I would like to give a special thanks to three individuals who agreed to appear as witnesses for this bill: **Detective Brad Stevens, Fresno Police Department; Don Penner, from the Fresno County District Attorney's Office; and Feleena Sutton of Fresno County Crime Stoppers.**

AB 2101 (passed; Assembly Education Committee): This legislation would allow students attending deployments or homecomings of military family members to be eligible for independent study regardless of the number of days they would be missing.

AB 2045 (passed; Assembly Education Committee): This bill would allow poor and rural school districts to more easily obtain state funding for necessary facility construction.

For more information on any of these bills, please contact my legislative staff in Sacramento.

NOW, TO THE REST OF MY WEEK IN SACRAMENTO

I started out the week by meeting with representatives from the **Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG)** as part of their **Annual Sacramento Advocacy Trip**. We discussed a number of economic, quality of life, and legislative issues pertaining to California. The SVLG's Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officers, and other officers and executives also held a number of meetings with other legislative leaders.

If you would like to learn more about the **Silicon Valley Leadership Group**, please visit their web site <http://www.svlq.net/>

During my next meeting, I sat down with student leaders from the **California State Student Association (CSSA)**, the **University of California Students Association (UCSA)**, and the **California Student Association of Community Colleges (CalSACC)**. I really enjoyed spending time with these students and I was impressed with their organization and drive to influence public policy by meeting with elected officials. In our conversation we touched on a number of budget and legislative items and their potential effects on students attending the **University of California, the California State University, and community college institutions.**

I encourage all of you to check out the work these amazing students are undertaking by having a look at their

web sites <http://www.ucsa.org/> (**UCSA**); <http://www.csustudents.org/> (**CSSA**); and <http://www.calsacc.org/> (**CalSACC**).

I also participated in a hearing of the **Assembly Budget Sub 4 Committee**, where we took up a number of different issues for review regarding the **Office of the Secretary of State** (<http://www.ss.ca.gov/>); the **State Personnel Board** (<http://www.spb.ca.gov/>); the **California State Teachers Retirement System** (<http://www.calstrs.com/>); the **California Arts Council** (<http://www.cac.ca.gov/>); and the **Franchise Tax Board** (<http://www.ftb.ca.gov/>).

The **Budget Sub 4 Committee** evaluates and reviews different aspects from the administration side of state government. If you would like to find out more information or to obtain copies of agendas and other actions regarding this committee, please take a look at the following web site <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/subcommittee.asp?subcommittee=22>

Toward the middle of the week, the issue of **infrastructure bonds** came up again, as the **leadership** in both the **Assembly** and the **Senate** announced they had come to a key compromise for placement on the ballot in November. The little we found out is that water infrastructure was completely taken off the table and simply was not considered essential.

I joined a delegation of local **San Joaquin Valley** elected officials and water leaders, all of whom represent significant Latino communities and constituencies, at a news conference to address the need for additional surface water storage in the **San Joaquin Valley**. We particularly highlighted the importance of including funding for **Temperance Flat Dam** above **Millerton Lake** in this November's state infrastructure bond measure.

The fight for water storage at **Temperance Flat**, levees, and other surface water storage projects to be included in the infrastructure bonds on the November ballot will not be abandoned.

While the bond debate is focused on what is good for the state as a whole, my interpretation is that what is good for the state is good for every part of the state, including the **Central Valley**.

Funds needed by the **Central Valley** have long been diverted the way of the state's more heavily populated regions, like **San Francisco** and **Los Angeles**.

I will be hard-pressed to support a bond measure that leaves the Central Valley out in the cold, and I sincerely hope my colleagues begin to see the dire need to tackle these issues.

Bill Andrews of my **Bakersfield District Office** caught up with a lot of folks in the community at the **59th Annual Community Awards Banquet** in **Shafter**. Honorees included:

Cris Smith	<i>Arts Award</i>
Shafter High School Faculty	<i>Commitment to Educational Excellence</i>
Shafter Junior Miss	
Program Committee	<i>Arts Award for a Group</i>
Eldalene Peters	<i>Humanitarian Award for an Individual</i>
Sequoia School	<i>Architecture Award for New Development</i>
Shafter Rotary Club	<i>Humanitarian Award for a Group</i>
Wilson Family	<i>Architecture Contributing to Business Revitalization</i>
Don Perico's Restaurant	<i>Commercial Remodel Award</i>
Allison Peters	<i>Youth Award</i>
Ken Gross	<i>Education Award</i>
Terry Lewis	<i>Youth Development Award</i>
Paul Charon	<i>Special Recognition for Outstanding Service to the Community</i>
Lars Jensen	<i>Special Shafter City Council Recognition for An Outstanding Athlete</i>
Shafter City Council	<i>Award for Public/Private Partnership</i>

Toward the end of the week, I also attended the monthly meeting of the **Income Property Association of Kern** and a meeting of the **Kern Association of Realtors**. I updated each group on my legislative package and various goings on in Sacramento including the bond debate and the Governor's upcoming May Revise.

ONGOING ACTIVITY

When you have some free time, please join **Pastor Jordan, Isiah Crompton**, and other community members in their effort to get out the message about stopping violence in our communities. They walk from house to house every Saturday, knocking on doors and explaining to people the importance of keeping an eye on and working against violence in our neighborhoods. I would like to invite everyone, from individuals, to families, to groups of friends, and any concerned organizations to join us in making our streets safer for our families and our children. For more information on the **Stop the Violence** campaign, please contact **Pastor Jordan at (661) 472-2637**.

COMMUNITY GROUP HIGHLIGHT

The **California Coalition for Youth's (CCY)** mission is to be the **PLACE** that improves and empowers the lives of California's youth by:

- Partnering with youth
- Linking with youth-serving programs throughout California
- Advocating for youth rights
- Connecting youth to resources
- Educating communities, policymakers, and stakeholders

The **CCY** also coordinates a statewide, toll free, 24-hour, confidential phone crisis line available to young people between the ages of 12-24, and concerned friends and family members. **CCY** provides crisis intervention counseling on many issues including family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. **CCY** offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth needing assistance or in crisis situations. The **California Youth Crisis Line** connects an average of 12,000 callers with vital resources annually. Agencies as well as young adults from every county in California use the **Crisis Line's toll-free number, 1-800-843-5200**.

COMMUNITY GROUP HIGHLIGHT

The **California Youth Connection (CYC)** is a statewide organization comprised of foster youth, both past and present, who work diligently in formulating policies and advocating for legislation on behalf of California's foster youth population.

For more information on **CYC**, please visit their web site at <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/> or simply call **CYC's** statewide office at 415-442-5060.

INTERESTING LINK

I would like to direct everyone to a very interesting and educational web site, www.leginfo.ca.gov. In accessing this web site, which is even used by many seasoned legislative veterans in Sacramento, people can learn more about the legislative process and the kinds of bills being carried by members of the legislature. People can also find the contact information for a given member....or if you do not know who your representatives are, you can find out that information, too.

I hope you check this site out, because it can serve as a tremendous resource, especially for students working on their social studies and civics homework and projects!!!!

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between **1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** and follow the simple setup instructions.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-

mail at Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov .

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford**, **Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

753 BC: Today is the traditional date of the foundation of Rome.

1649: The Maryland Toleration Act was passed, allowing all freedom of worship.

1789: John Adams was sworn in as the first U.S. Vice President.

1836: General Sam Houston defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto. This battle decided the independence of Texas.

1959: The largest fish ever hooked by a rod and reel was caught by Alf Dean. It was a 16-foot, 10-inch white shark that weighed 2,664 pounds.

1994: Jackie Parker became the first woman to qualify to fly an F-16 combat plane.

1998: Astronomers announced in Washington that they had discovered possible signs of a new family of planets orbiting a star 220 light-years away.

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